

WHAT IS A SCRATCHED OR ABRADED UNSATISFACTORY SPECIMEN?



An **unsatisfactory** specimen is one that is poor quality in which the Newborn Screening adequacy may be affected.

What are the reasons a specimen is deemed *unsatisfactory*?

- Quantity Insufficient (QNS)
- Contaminated
- Collected on an Expired Card
- Clotted or Layered
- Specimen Too Old
- Patient Too Old
- * **Scratched or Abraded**
- Damaged in Transit

What does *Scratched or Abraded* mean?

The filter paper was damaged, contains creases or tears, folded or bent and blood drops will be rough, wrinkled or rippled.

How to prevent collecting a *Scratched or Abraded* specimen:

- Do not touch heel to filter paper.
- Do not use capillary tubes.
- Do not touch filter paper after applying blood drops.
- Allow specimen to dry flat with blood application side up.
- Protective flap or cover should not be folded until specimen is completely dry (ready to ship).
- Prior to use, blood collection forms should be stored standing on side in packaging (do NOT store flat).

Examples of Satisfactory Specimens



Front



Back



What causes Scratched or Abraded specimens?

- Bending or folding specimen cards
- Too many specimens in envelope
- Wet specimen touches another object
- Protective flap was allowed to dry on top of specimen
- Using a capillary tube



Questions or concerns?

Contact the Newborn Screening
Quality Improvement team at:
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